

Message Text

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44

ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 SS-07 NSC-06 AID-01 DRC-01 RSC-01

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O 201700Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5106

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MANAGUA 3678

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OTRA, NU

SUBJECT: TRIAL OF CONGRESSMAN PODELL: TRAVEL OF AMBASSADOR

REF: AMBASSADOR SHELTON/GOWEN TELCON OF SEPT. 20, 1974

1. AS I ADVISED GOWEN DURING MY TELEPHONE CONVERSATION, IT WOULD BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT FOR ME TO BE IN NEW YORK THIS SUNDAY. AS YOU ARE AWARE, THERE HAS BEEN VERY SERIOUS DAMAGE IN THE CENTRAL AMERICAN AREA CAUSED BY HURRICANE FIFI. WHILE NICARAGUA HAS ESCAPED THE MOST SERIOUS DAMAGE, ROADS AND BRIDGES HAVE BEEN WASHOUT, RESIDENTS ARE STRANDED IN LOW LYING AREAS, AND GON HAS REQUESTED ASSISTANCE THROUGH U.S. MILGROUP IN OBTAINING A HELICOPTER TO EVACUATE THESE INDIVIDUALS. THE MAIN DAMAGE FROM THE STORM WHICH IS VERY SEVERE, HAS OCCURRED IN HONDURAS AND MANAGUA IS BEING USED AS A BASE OF OPERATION FOR U.S. RELIEF ACTIVITIES BY U.S. AIR FORCE IN VIEW OF DIFFICULTIES OF LANDING IN TEGUCIGALPA AND SHORTAGE OF AVIATION FUEL THERE.

2. IT WOULD BE MUCH APPRECIATED IF YOU COULD DETERMINE THE LATEST POSSIBLE TIME DURING THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 22 THAT MY TESTIMONY COULD BE ARRANGED. IF IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO ARRANGE FOR ME TO TESTIFY ON MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, I COULD ARRANGE TO BE IN NEW YORK ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, WHICH WOULD GIVE TIME TO ASSIST IN THESE DISASTER RELIEF EFFORTS.

3. WOULD APPRECIATE IMMEDIATE RESPONSE.

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SHELTON

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NNN

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